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ABSTRACT

Conducted in January 1977, the community survey examined alcohol abuse and alcoholism among Chicanos in the barrios. Data were obtained from 160 respondents (119 females and 41 males) from 3 geographic areas in San Antonio: the Special Impact Area of Casa Del Sol (an alcoholism program) and the cities of San Antonio and Alamo Heights. Information was gathered on the socio-geographic characteristics of the drinking places, alcoholism awareness, family attitudes and opinions about alcoholism, the consequences of alcoholism, drinking cultural patterns and values, and familiarity with Casa Del Sol. The findings included: 50% of the respondents were familiar with Casa Del Sol; 8.7% drank because of peer pressure and expectations, 30% because of personal, familial and economic reasons, 30.6% because les gusta tomar" (they enjoyed drinking), and 5% for social reasons; 32% had had contact with the jail in an alcohol related issue; 31% responded that drinking was done at home after work or during weekends and 30% said drinking took place at "la cantina" (bar); 49% said they worried about someone who drank in the family; 34.4% defined alcoholism as an "un vicio" a bad vice). Since the majority of the respondents were females, four questions were analyzed to measure the difference in perception and interpretation between the males and females. The analysis showed no difference between the two groups in their responses at the .05 level of significance. (NQ)

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Student's Name

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submitted to

Dr. Earl Jones

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II

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to present and describe the information that surfaced from a survey conducted by Casa Del Sol's staff. It is basically divided into two main parts: a theoretical paradigm on Chicano alcoholism and the interpretation of the research gathered concentrating on cultural and economical factors relating to alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

This project was designed and utilized for staff development and community involvement and participation. Involvement in the community was through the usage of an alcohol survey. This survey enabled the program to identify and address immediate needs and problems caused by alcoholism in the family and barrio.

This survey allowed the program to become more exposed and recognized in the community for future referrals, recruitment, alcohol education and socio-cultural research information.

The construction, organization, training and processing of the survey allowed me to better perceive and understand the problem of drinking in the barrio. The combination of theory and practice in social work education is highly appreciated, especially, after it is completed and documented.

I. Statement Of The Problem:

A. General Perspective Of Alcoholism

Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism continues to spread among the general population. This permissive society is gradually cultivating and manifesting confusing and ambivalent attitudes which prevail to a large extent. Alcoholism has contributed to family disharmony, deaths, and is becoming more pervasive daily. Alcohol abuse and alcoholism has evolved into a painful and monsterous socio-economic dilemma. The following are primary issues of concern expressed by Karl A. Schneider:

1) For every heroin addict in the U.S. today, there are at least 15 alcoholics.
2) Between 40 to 50 percent of (FBI) reported arrests in the U.S., exclusive of minor traffic violations were for alcohol-related offenses.
3) Alcohol plays a major part in half of our highway deaths. Before the gas shortage——about 28,000 each year.
4) Alcohol drains the national economy of $15 billion in property damage, lost working time, medical bills, etc.
5) The life expectancy of problem drinkers is 12 years shorter than for those who do not misuse alcoholic beverages and 50 percent of problem drinkers die before their 51st birthday.[1]

What is alcoholism? What is the difference between an alcoholic and alcoholism? An alcoholic is an individual who cannot manage or control the consumption of alcohol, and who has developed a physical dependence on alcohol.

The individual is no longer in control of his/her behavior because there is an overwhelming psychological compulsion and need to drink.

Alcoholism is extremely difficult to explain and define to adequately identify all the characteristics. An obvious element, of course, is that we are dealing with human beings. In this paper I shall use the operational definition of alcoholism as follows:

> "The term "alcoholism" is used to refer to a complex biological, psychological and sociological phenomenon related to the abuse of alcoholic beverages."[2]

Alcoholism has three main factors that exist in any phenomenon. These factors are relatively constant, although they may vary in proportion. The three constant factors in alcoholism are the agent (alcohol), the host (the drinker), and the environment.[3]

William Madsen[4] claims that biologists tend to see alcoholism as a biological problem. The psychologists see it as a mental problem. The anthropologists view it primarily as a cultural problem, the emphasis being on stress and resorting to drinking. The economic deprivation theory upholds that an environment with certain socio-economic characteristics is a contributor to alcoholism in the community. Poor housing, underemployment, inadequate financial resources,

and the general lack of alcoholism awareness are indirectly stress factors on the individual. Many use alcohol as their coping mechanism.

B. Chicano Alcoholism Development

Chicanos, the nation's second largest minority group and its largest indigenous population have had a long history of alcohol abuse.[5] At this time, I would like to pinpoint some historical and cultural influences on the development of Chicano alcoholism in the Southwest which has transcended into the barrio lifestyle.

The indigenous cultures in Central Mexico had strict and punitive laws towards the usage of "alcoholic beverages" (pulque)*. In the Aztec culture only guerreros (warriors), priests (sarcedotes), and ancianos (elderly men) had excess to pulque, and the freedom to get intoxicated, but at a very moderate level. Porforia Alvarez captures the impact of the Espanoles who arrived during the early part of the sixteen century:

> "The intrusion of Cortes conquistadores introduced to Mexican-Indian culture the European model of drinking: that solemn occassions and moments of friendship are sealed by the drinking of liquor. This use of liquor has persisted to this day among Mexican Americans. Liquor is used to celebrate or mourn---whatever the occassion may be."[6]

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*Pulque: An organic white substance extracted from the Maguey plant which would produce euphoric and hallucination effects.

This type of drinking evolved and matured during Mexico's colonization period. Alvarez further mentions that the clash between the European and Mexican-Indian values and habits increased the consumption among the Mexicanos. Since the 1600's the Mexican has had free use of alcohol which has made treatment of alcoholism in Mexican Americans extremely difficult.[7]

The Texas Commission on Alcoholism* published the following information describing the socio-cultural, and economic factors affecting treatment outcome:

> Alcoholism among the Mexican American populations for the most part have been unexplored and as yet unquantified. In this ethnic group, alcoholism is not regarded as a disease... Family and religious sanctions further its denial. Mexican American families often regard alcoholic behavior in men acceptable and as a way of life. This adds to the family's unwillingness to bring prevalent alcoholism to the attention of traditional mental health organizations. In such cases, the individual seeking treatment is often forced to deal with the problem in a way contrary to the traditional norm of including the family. In this way, isolated treatment for the person's alcoholism does not acknowledge the impoverished environmental conditions and the cultural values that exist as barriers... the poverty alcoholic is dually stigmatized as a member of the poverty community and as an alcoholic. Traditional services has achieved little success with individuals crippled by poverty alcoholism.[8]

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*Texas Commission On Alcoholism: A magazine that is published quarterly by the Texas Commission on Alcoholism in Austin, Texas.

The problem of alcoholism varies within the Chicano community and culture. Most Chicanos are bilingual and bicultural. The Mexican culture is home. The American culture is transmitted by education. Acculturation among Chicanos is related to the degree of alcoholism. Acculturation is one of many contributing factors to the higher alcoholism rates. William Madsen[9] conducted a study in a South Texas town and reports the "agringado" alcoholic experiences value conflicts from loss of identity and community. An "agringado" is a Chicano who has assimilated into the Anglo culture. Acculturation becomes a stress factor.

Another study of Graves[10] with Spanish American alcoholics found higher rates of alcoholism and deviant behavior among assimilated Spanish Americans. Non-assimilated Spanish Americans displayed strong internalized social and psychological controls from their families and their church which results in lower rates of alcoholism. Graves also found that as the influence of family and church begins to break down through acculturation, the incidence of alcoholism increases.

Another factor related to alcohol abuse and alcoholism is poverty within the Chicano community. Casa Del Sol operates within the Chicano community. Casa Del Sol operates within a catchment area of almost 210,000 people. There are 186,000 who are of Mexican descent. There are some geographic segments that have been designated as "blighted areas."

Alcoholism is higher in this particular area. The cycle of poverty becomes a life situation defined by its members as a chronic distress of every conceiveable type and a sense of helplessness to either avoid or alleviate the social disease.[11]

Although Alcohol abuse and alcoholism is clearly present in the Chicano barrio, it is suggested that it is a symptom of social pathology and not a manifestation of pathology of the Chicano.[12]

The final issue I would like to address is the establishment and occupancy of legal places where to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages. The permeation of bars (cantinas), grocery stores, icehouses, and modern convenient chain stores into special sectors of particular geographic areas barrios has made it easy to obtain alcoholic beverages within walking distance. The availability of alcohol within the barrio is very high.[13]

There are other cultural factors interrelated in Chicano alcoholism. Racism as a psychological stress factor, the barrio as a social system, culture change, culture conflict, and survival mechanisms are all associated with the use of alcohol in Chicano communities.[14]

The overall description of the shaping of alcohol abuse and alcoholism among Mexicanos has its roots in both indigenous and Spanish culture. The latter one promoting it while the

first disapproved and controlled alcoholism. The Mexican-Mestizos are an emulation of learned behavior. Chicano alcoholism has been no different culturally, but economic and social oppression has manufactured and produced more drinking.

The survey that follows hopefully will shed new perspectives in relation to alcohol abuse and alcoholism in the barrio. The information gathered can be utilized to find out what the people in the barrio think alcoholism is and to what extent it exists.

II. Design And Methodology

A. Statement Of Purpose

The central theoretical problem for any analyst of a descriptive survey is the effective conceptualization of the phonemenon to be studied. The phenomenon in this case is Chicano barrio alcoholism. It is very necessary to understand the variable being identified for analysis through social research. Otherwise, any description actually obtained following the iterpretation of the data may be incomplete or may distort the nature of the "complexity" (emphasis mine) of the phenomenon the survey researchers attempt to analyze.

In addition to the conceptualization of the survey, the research team must decide what population is the most appropriate group within which to study alcoholism. A series of techiques and procedures to ultimately gather the data

must be developed. These are very necessary in order to conduct an effective descriptive survey. The theory, organization and implementation of the survey constitutes extremely essential variables.

The exact nature of these strategies for a survey analysis will naturally vary with the particular survey. Some problems are more complex than others. Some are more difficult to translate into operations than others in field conditions. The likely error factors will depend on the quality of the interviewers, coders and other research personnel. The responses of the participants in their information giving can be affected by such social forces as fear, embarrassment, nervousness and anxiety.

The entire survey research process is dependent on the nature of the resources provided in terms of manhours, personnel, money and interviewing skills. This prolonged activity provides the research agency with the planned and anticipating product of the survey.

B. Overall Goal Of Survey

The inception of Casa Del Sol became a reality April, 1975. During this period the population that has been reached and helped have been mostly representatives of one segment of the

heterogenity of the immediate Chicano community encountered with the problem of alcoholism. The need to initiate and implement a drinking survey will enable Casa Del Sol to identify and address those individual and familial needs in the barrio, as they relate to alcohol abuse. The survey will be initiated in different segments of the Chicano population in the future.

3. Specific Goal Of Survey

The survey will serve and act as the vehicle that will allow Casa Del Sol to become more exposed and recognized in the Chicano barrios for alcoholism awareness, future referrals, recruitment and social research data.

C. Survey Objectives

1. to initiate a community descriptive survey on socio-economic-cultural drinking behavior
2. to implement the survey by January 21, 1977
3. to conduct the survey in a different census tract inside the Special Impact Area
4. to gather 160 surveys from a census tract or population segment designated utilizing staff
5. to design the 10-15 questions of the survey to correlate with the following:

A. Family needs/community

1) Alcoholism awareness
2) Referral and recruitment system
3) Socio-cultural characteristics

D. Population

1. San Juan Homes

At this time, I want to share with you some statistical data in relationship to family structure, household, median family incomes, average family incomes, and education. I feel that this data will help you to better comprehend why, alcoholism, alcohol dependence, or alcohol addiction definitely needs more than a single theory to adequately explain the complex of symptoms of Chicano alcoholism in the barrios. The following comparison of information is from the perspective of three (3) geographical areas (1) the Special Impact Area (SIA), Casa Del Sol; (2) The City of San Antonio and (3) The City of Alamo Heights. I selected the Alamo Heights area because this single census tract area with its median family income of $11,385 provides us a comparison of the middle income conditions that are regarded by many as a standard of American life.

San Juan Homes, a public housing project, is situated inside the catchment area of Casa Del Sol. The Special Impact Area has a total of 33 census tracts, and this housing project is located in census tract 1601. The inhabitants are Mexican Americans of

a certain socio-economic level. The income and assets of the tenants must fall within a specific limit. These characteristics were instrumental for the selection of this project.

Casa Del Sol wanted to find out whether the community was aware of our existence, and the possibility of surveying this area. Although it is not documented in any research study per se, alcohol abuse and alcoholism has affected families, and is quite notable in this area. Of course, there are many cultural festivities that need to be identified and separated from alcohol abuse resulting from social and economic pressures and expectations. The following discussion contains very interesting statistics concerning three geographic areas in San Antonio.

2. Demographic Characteristics

Family Structure

More women in (SIA) area have the responsibility for heading up their families than women in San Antonio as a whole or Alamo Heights. One out of every five families in the SIA is headed by a woman. This compares to less than one out of every six in San Antonio and Alamo Heights.

	All Families	Husband-Wife Families	Families With Female Head
SIA	11,566	8,800 or 76.1%	2,297 or 19.8%
SA	155,615	128,210 or 82.6%	22,848 or 14.7%
AH	2,001	1,670 or 83.4%	288 or 14.3%

Families in the (SIA) area are considerably larger. They are twice as large as in Alamo Heights and larger by one-third in San Antonio.

Persons Per Household

SIA	4.53
SA	3.38
AH	2.28

Income

Along with having more persons to provide for, the families of the (SIA) have less income. Median incomes are half again as high for San Antonio as a whole and more than twice as high in Alamo Heights.

	Median Family Incomes
SIA	$ 5,263
SA	$ 7,735
AH	$11,385

Average incomes also reveal disproportion between the SIA area and San Antonio as a whole. The disproportion in comparison with Alamo Heights, however, jumps to almost one to three.

	Average Family Incomes
SIA	$ 5,408
SA	$ 9,027
AH	$15,849

Education

All persons experiencing some kind of discrimination, have a need for more opportunities to develop their personal self-confidence and social skills. Lack of these opportunities frequently results in lower levels of employment and education. The median number of school years completed by San Antonio is almost twice as that of persons in the Special Impact Area (SIA), while residents of Alamo Heights attain even more.

Median School Year Completed

SIA	6.0
SA	10.8
AH	13.5

Household

Overcrowded conditions in the home increases the need for outside opportunities for developing confidence and quality of life. Residents of the special Impact Area (SIA) have a disadvantage in comparison with others. Housing Units in the SIA area tend to have twice as many persons as in Alamo Heights and over a third more persons than San Antonio as a whole.

Median Number of Persons in all Occupied Housing Units

SIA	4.1
SA	2.9
AH	2.0

In light of the data I just shared with you, an important factor that needs to be checked is the availability and prevalence of alcoholic beverages in the barrio. In San Antonio, it was demonstrated by a research study done by Canales (April, 1976) from OLL of Worden School that a high number of licensed liquor establishments were found in areas having high levels of poverty and high concentration of Mexican Americans.[15]

E. Data Collection Process

1. Orientation and Input

Another aspect of the survey entailed the involvement of the staff. A series of in-service sessions were conducted by myself to try and formulate a group decision of the designing of the questions and the mechanics necessary to carry out the survey. The staff selected the following variables after several brainstorming sessions:

1. Alcoholism Awareness Questions
2. Socio-geographic Characteristics (drinking places)
3. Alcoholism and La Familia
   - A. Attitudes
   - B. Opinions
4. Alcoholism and Consequences
   - A. Family
   - B. Police/Jail
5. Drinking Cultural Patterns and Values

Individually each staff member shared what they thought could be a good question. Upon the concensus of the group, the question was accepted, modified or not recommended. The target date for the actual survey was decided for January 28, 1977. It was to be an all day activity. The final design of the survey (see appendix I) was finished.

2. Methodology Employed

The laboring of the survey is divided into four areas:

I. Fact Sheet

A. Interviewer's name

B. Date of interview

C. Interviewer's signature

D. Brief survey explanation and instructions

E. Ethics in surveying

F. Survey's number

II. Variable To Be Studied---Chicano Barrio Alcoholism

A. Population

B. Minimum Age Limit of Participant (16 years)

C. Universal Rule: One member per household

III. Planning And Objectives

A. To conduct a survey on 1/28/77

B. To gather 160 household surveys

C. To analyze survey data

IV. Strategy Objectives

A. To utilize staff members

B. To use one complete working day

C. To implement the survey into a selected area

D. To divide the laboring of survey into 20 surveys per interviewer.

3. Personnel

The survey was finally implemented at the San Juan Homes and the experience provided positive insights. The community was highly cooperative and willing to participate. This took place starting around 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The interviewers consisted of counselors, out-reach workers, a secretary, and residential members. The surveys were collected systematically and prepared for the analyst.

III. Processing of Data

A. Coding, IBM Cards, Job Cards, and Initial Computer Processing

I later consulted with my academic advisor, Dr. Earl Jones, who was also helping with the processing of the research data. After explaining the experience and showing my advisor the results, he instructed me to code the surveys for quicker and precise research information. The staff was oriented and together we coded the surveys.

Later, I attended several sessions with my advisor who was teaching

me to computerized the surveys. Dr. Jones and myself met at Trinity University's Computer Science Building for keypunching exercises. I had already had 160 IBM cards keypunched at Trinity, and I was working on the job cards.

We made three separate computer runs at Trinity one evening, but there were a couple of errors in the job cards that we could not locate.

B. Final Computer Printout

The first computer printout had several errors. Case number (40) forty had no data after the sex entry. This was identified and corrected. There were several questions on the coding system. Code number (9) nine had been misinterpreted, but it had been placed on the value label cards. The execution time for this run was .10 seconds. This was called an edit run to see if all the data was in order, and that no data was missing.

The second computer printout had (22) twenty-two job cards added. There were several mistakes in the job cards. The word frequency had been mispelled and the computer would not continue to process the data until this was corrected. A total of (3) three errors were corrected. This exercise was processed in .88 seconds.

The following computer printout was successful. There were no errors. The mean and standard deviation were statistically

measured on each question. I will list an example of the sex variable.

Table 1: Analysis Of Sex Variable: Male and Female

Sex	Code	Absolute Freq	Relative Freq (Pct)	Adjusted Freq (Pct)	Cum Freq (Pct)
Male	1.	41	25.6	25.6	25.6
Female	2.	119	74.4	74.4	100.0
		160	100.0	100.0	

Mean 1.744

STB Dev 0.438

The analysis depicted that 119 females were interviewed versus 41 males. This lead to the assumption that the responses gathered would be biased because more females participated. I will discuss each question individually and present a statistical table on each.

IV. Results Of Data

A. Interpretation And Assumptions Of Results

Question Number 1: FAMSOL

Since Casa Del Sol is situated in the same geographic area and census tract as the San Juan Homes Project, it was anticipated that the community was familiar with our agency. The results indicated that 50% or 80 respondents were familiar with Casa Del Sol.

Table No. 1

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT
No	73	45.6
Maybe	6	3.7
Yes	80	50.0

Question Number 2: WHYDR

Table No. 2

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT
Peer Pressure	14	8.7
Problems	48	30.0
Gusto	49	30.6
Ritual	8	5.0
Other	13	8.1
Combination	27	16.9

The responses attained revealed and identified socio-cultural and economic factors related to alcohol abuse and alcoholism. Peer pressure was defined as subcultural groups like la palomia, los camaradas, los compadres, and personal and familial expectations and values. Pressure and expectations of los vatos to drink after a hard day's work was also mentioned. Although the percentage ascertained was not that high, it still played a vital role in the barrio.

The other major contribution in the San Juan area was related to problems. Problems entailed personal, familial and economic reasons. The response to this particular question was 30% or 48 responses. Since tenants only have to pay 25% of their weekly salary as rent, it is understable that these social and economic problems would surfaced at different levels.

A very interesting response was that people drank because "les gusta tomar". This entailed 30.6% or 49 responses---the highest response in this question. This answer is naive in nature, but what are they really saying? Do they see alcohol abuse and alcoholism as a problem? The fact of the matter is that people drink because they enjoy what alcohol does to them physically and psychologically. They become more relaxed and less inhibited and assertive in general. They are able to release feelings of anxiousness and frustrations. Some drink to forget and reduce anxiety. Others to dance and built courage to engage in initiating dialogues and sex.

Others stated that people used alcoholic beverages solely for social reasons. The Chicano culture is said to be characteritic of convival drinking. Ritual was defined as bautismos, fiestas, pinatas, matrimonios, and other culture events. Eventhough only 5% acknowledged this response, it is indicative of the way La Raza associates drinking respectfully within a family context.

Question Number 3: HELP

Table No. 3

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT
Referral	15	9.4
Don't Know	121	75.6
Avoid/Hide Problem	23	14.4

The analysis of this question raises issues that need to be addressed. According to the statistical findings 121 different family members related very candidly their lack of knowledge pertaining to alcohol abuse. Perhaps, the reason behind the response that was provided had a dual message. They had not recognized, if they were experiencing drinking problems within the family, that it was termed alcoholism. Within the heterogenity of the Chicano culture this drinking pattern is practiced by un sin verguenza or borracho. Denial of alcohol abuse and alcoholism protects and prolongs the situation and has never been readily admitted. Of course, these are only assumptions, but cultural reality in urban barrios. There were only 15 respondents who knew what course of action to take. Some acknowledged having had experience with alcoholism. An intersting finding showed that 14% answered that they would either avoid or hide the drinking problems. This is denial. The influence of culture among traditional Chicanos to

alleviate the situation is rather tolerated than publicized by some. The extended family members and relatives one way or the other always find out. The social stigma becomes a burden.

Question Number 4: JAIL

Table No. 4

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT%
No	105	65.6
Other	3	1.9
Yes	51	31.9

Generalizations of Chicanos have also been used by the Chicano himself. Residing in public housing project connotes a negative attitude concerning the drinking in the area. This question identifies 105 different family households who stated no experiences with the jail. The remaining respondents or 32% acknowledge contact with the jail in an alcohol related issue. This question implies two things: it disproves the generalization about "those housing projects" or that something of this nature is confidential to the family and barrio only.

Question Number 5: BARS

Table No. 5

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT%
No	29	18.1
Yes	116	72.5
Not know	14	8.7

According to the tenants of the San Juan Homes, they think there are too many cantinas or/and barras in their area. A study has been documented confirming the excessive issuing of licenses to purchase alcoholic beverages within this particular area by Canales in 1976. The community's concern and awareness of these places is no secret. The percentage of the "skid row bum" or as we know them "los winos" in this project is minimal because of the mobility of the people.

Question Number 6: WHEREDR

Table No. 6

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT%
Cantina	48	30
Casa	51	31.9
Social	20	12.5
Other	18	11.2
All	21	13.1
Not know	1	.6

This question was closely related to the family unit. 31% expressed that when somebody in their family drank, the drinking was done at home either after work or during weekends. Another 30% responded that the drinking was taking place outside their home at la cantina. It was in these families that alcohol abuse and alcoholism existed in varying degrees. The male of the household was identified. Social drinking measured almost 13%. Other responses included 11% of complete abstinence at home.

Question No. 7: ICE7

Table No. 7

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT%
No	85	53.1
Yes	67	41.9
Don't know	7	4.4.

The "llelerria" phenomenon is a sociological characteristic unique in San Antonio, especially with the Chicano communities. Although it has been referred too as lower class drinking by the white community, the llelerria to the Chicano means much more. It is where one meets after "cameando" all day with los camaradas to have a drink. Of course, there are those who have made it a constant habit as they progress in abnormal drinking. Again, the majority are social drinkers. Almost 42% stated that someone in their

family drank at the icehouse. Peer pressure and expectations are directly related in this cultural group activity. 53% indicated that nobody in their family drank in the icehouse.

Question No. 8: WORRY

Table No. 8

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT
No	69	43.1
Sometimes	14	8.7
Yes	75	46.9
Other	1	.6

This question indicates again the probability of alcoholism in these families. There were almost 49% of those who said they worried about someone who drinks in the family. In direct contrast 69 respondents or 43% did not worry.

Question Number 9: MONEY

Table No. 9

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT
$26 Hus	31	19.4
$10-24	25	15.6
$ 9 less	102	63.7

The reason why 64% of those drink only spend or the average of $9 or less is an economic factor. This indicates higher utilization of alcoholic beverages among those who have less money. Plus, almost 20% of the respondents spend $26 or more in alcoholic beverages. One can safely say that are probably experiencing alcoholism.

Question Number 10: TRAG

Table No. 10

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT
Yes	108	67.5
No	46	28.7
Not know	5	3.1

A serious tragedy was defined as a major car accident where someone was either injured or killed. Also, it was interpreted in terms of serious quarrels leading to aggressive or violent behavior. A total of 108 respondents had never experienced a tragedy. 28% identified and related that there had been a serious accident or tragedy. These findings again correlate with previous questions manifesting symptoms of alcohol abuse and alcoholism in the family structure.

Question Number 11: CHILD

Table No. 11

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT
No	21	13.1
Depends	9	5.6
Yes	122	76.2
Not Know	7	4.4

Exactly 76% responded that model drinking had bad effects for the children. The majority of children do not like their parents to drink. Another 13% of the participants commented that they did not see anything wrong. They stated the necessity to have a certain limit on drinking. Some expressed no concern or interest concerning children, but rationalized about their drinking. This division in family orientation and values could be due to the dual role of alcohol. It is promoted and prohibited. Television exposes different models of alcohol. Some are sexy, other are macho-oreinted, and mostly associated in alcohol-related crimes. Some families are viewing it on television and experiencing the alcoholism simultaneously.

Question Number 12: RELIG

Table No. 12

Responses	Absolute Freq	PCT

Against	88	55
Accepts	40	25
Not know	31	19.4

This particular question stirred up alot of dialogue because of its religious character. The interviewers wanted to find out what opinion and position their particular religion held for drinking. About 95% identified their religion as Catholic. It was interesting to note that 55% said their churches did not promote drinking. There were 40 respondents who expressed discontent feelings since they are aware of Las Jamaicas and Bingos. The church grounds are also used for social and political events. Some mentioned having seen el padre pedo. This is confusing to people. Almost 20% had confusing and ambivalent thoughts. Porfirio Alvarez explains the situation between religion and alcoholism.

> Another intrusion of the conquistadores was the imposition of European religion onto Mexican-Indian culture. Religion plays a big part in Mexican American culture. Traditions and rituals of the Roman Catholic church are used as an excuse to get drunk (baptisms, confirmations, marriages). Alvarez further states that although the Catholic Church does not condem drunkness, the ritual of confession---where one can confess all of his trangessions---makes for him an easy way to clear one's conscience[16].Ready once again to go and drink.

There have been several cases at Casa Del Sol where extremely pious persons pray to either God or a certain "Virgen" Mexicana. The ritual of confession after drinking is also practiced by religious drinkers. One must remember that the Chicanos'

ancesters---indian and espanoles who became mestizos and now the Chicanos all had different drinking values. It is well accepted in the Anglo American culture. These are all cultural characteristics that comprise Chicano drinking.

Question Number 13: MARPROB

Table No. 13

Responses	Absolute Frequent	PCT
No	8	5
Yes	142	88.7
Not Know	9	5.6

This question had the highest percentage on the survey---88%. Everybody is aware of the role alcohol plays in separating a marriage. Within Casa Del Sol's catchment there are over 5,000 households headed by women. It is our assumption that many of these broken families are the results of alcoholism. The consequences of alcoholism in the family must not continue to go unrecognized in the barrio.

Question Number 14: WHENDR

Responses	Absolute Frequent	PCT
Parties	60	37.5
Weddings	10	6.3
Rituals	20	12.5
Other	35	21.9
All	34	21.2

Chicano drinking is classified as convival drinking. This sociological characteristic has been mentioned by Dr. Ruiz.[17] The cultural theory developed by Bailes explains Chicano drinking as convival.[18] Parties, weddings and rituals were defined as culture related activities. These entailed bautismos, confirmations, matrimonios and pinatas. This finding supports and reinforces those cultural entities that are so well known to the Chicano community at large, and curious and nebulous to outsiders.

Question Number 15: DEFINE

Table No. 15

Responses	Absolute Frequent	PCT
Disease	47	29.4
Vice	55	34.4
SOCPROB	22	13.7
Other	7	4.4
All	28	17.5

The term alcoholism in the barrio is not readily accepted. The word "alcoholic" is associated with the skid row alcoholic. Even though the concept of alcoholism in terms of it being a medical disease needs to be better understood and related in the barrio through education and preventive measures, there were 29% who defined alcoholism as a disease. Almost 18% responded that it was a combination of all the possible responses. They stated

that it becomes "un vicio" first, later developing into problems at home and work, and finally progressing into a psychological need and physical addiction.

Something that cannot be overlooked is the "vicio" concept. The Chicano community considers abnormal drinking a bad vice. This cultural saying in terms of identifying drinking behavior connotes negative images and feelings. The elderly people in the barrio would associate problem drinking as "un vicio" malo, before classifying it a disease. These were our experiences and observations. Pendery related that Russians do not consider alcoholism as we do, to be a disease. They say that alcoholism is a bad habit resulting from excessive drinking. The data that was gathered and processed from the survey is indicative of alcohol abuse and alcoholism in the San Juan Homes Project.

As mentioned previously the majority of the responses were by females. A series of questions were selected to measure the difference in perception and interpretation of four questions between the males and females. The computer printout analysis showed no difference between the two groups in their responses at the .05 level of significance. Their answers were very similar. The significance of difference had to be beyond the .05 level. These are the four questions that were analyzed:

Table 1: Analysis of variance on why respondents drink: male/female

Sex	N	Mean	SB	F-RATIO	SIG.
Male	41	3.5	1.6	1.5%	0.212
Female	118	3.2	1.6		
All	159	3.2	1.6		

Table 2: Analysis of variance on where respondents drink: male/female

Sex	N	Mean	SB	F-RATION	SIG.
Male	41	2.2	1.2	2.261	0.1347
Female	118	2.6	1.5		
All	159	2.5	1.5		

Table 3: Analysis of variance if respondents worry: male/female

Sex	N	Mean	SB	F-RATION	SIG.
Male	41	1.9	.9	1.8	0.1861
Female	118	2.9	1.0		
All	159	2.9	1.0		

Table 4: Analysis of variance on how respondents define alcoholism: male/female

Sex	N	Mean	SB	F-RATIO	SIG.
Male	41	2.5	1.4	0.23	0.8806
Female	118	2.5	1.4		
All	159	2.5	1.4		

The results that were delineated in the previous four tables proved that the sex of the respondent was not important. Males and females living in the San Juan Homes perceive and interpret drinking behavior from the same cultural perspective. This implies that the cultural factors related to alcoholism are part of the family structure and environment. It also confirms the problem of alcohol abuse and alcoholism in that area.

V. Conclusion

The intention of this community survey focused on several issues, but primarily to study the neglected problem of alcohol abuse and alcoholism in the San Juan Homes, an urban housing barrio. The data processed confirms the assumption of probable alcoholism in this area. This research project identifies a unique pattern of responses describing and affirming alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

A model of no drinking is also present in the barrio. In this study there were households where zero money was spent on alcoholic beverages. Of course, the expenditure on alcoholic beverages was relatively high and constant considering the economic factors involved. What does Casa Del Sol propose to do? How?

Since this survey allowed the community residents and Casa Del Sol's staff to become more familiar, it also created an initial process of communication. There have been several cases from the housing project as residential clients. Presently, an arts and crafts program is slowly developing every Wednesday morning at

the community room. This is solely a female group. Alcoholism education will sporadically weave itself into the weekly sessions. This core group will serve as a referral and informational base. Lastly, a San Juan resident could be trained by Casa Del Sol in alcoholism and placed in the project as an alcoholic worker.

In conclusion, it is felt that a community alcohol education program would definitely produce awareness, recognition and desire on the part of the community residents to prevent the continued widespread growth of alcoholism.[19] Casa Del Sol has made several presentations in this area already with youth and adults.

FOOTNOTES

1. Karl A. Schneider, "Alcoholism: A Family Affair", Lutheran Brotherhood: Minneapolis, Mn; 1974, p.1.

2. Anthony M. Alcocer, Ph.D., "Chicano Alcoholism", California State University: Northridge; p.69.

3. Jokichi Takamine, "What Is Alcoholism", The Magazine: Texas Commission on Alcoholism, Vol. 3, No.1, Winter 1977, p.7.

4. William Madsen, "What Is Alcoholism", The Magazine: Texas Commission on Alcoholism, Vol. 3, no.1, Winter 1977 p.5.

5. Juliette S. Ruiz, "Chicano Alcohol Abuse And Alcoholism: A Socio-Cultural Dimensions", Graduate School of Social Work: Nov. 1976, p.2.

6. Porforia Alvarez, "The Mexican American And Alcoholism", Center on Alcohol Abuse Prevention Class---Background on Alcoholism; p.63.

7. Alvarez, p.63.

8. Gloria De Leon-Ewen, "Poverty Compounds The Problem", The Magazine: Texas Commission on Alcoholism, Vol. 3, No.2, Spring 1977, p.8.

9. William Madsen "The Alcoholic Agringado", American Anthropologist, Vol. LXVI, no. 2 (1964), pp.355-361.

10. Theodore D. Graves, "Acculturation, Access, And Alcohol In A Triethnic Community", American Anthropologist, Vol LVIX, Nos. 3 and 4 (1967), pp. 306-321.

11. Anthony M. Alcocer, Ph.D., "Chicano Alcoholism", California State University: Northridge, p.71.

12. Juliette S. Ruiz, "Chicano Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: A Socio-cultural Dimensions", Worden Graduate School of Social Work: Nov. 1976, p.79.

13. Anthony M. Alcocer, Ph.D, "Chicano Alcoholism', California State University: Northridge, p.71

14. Juliette S. Ruiz, "Chicano Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: A Socio-Cultural Dimensions", Worden Graduate School of Social Work: Nov., 1976, p. 70.

15. Joe Edward Canales, "A Description Study Of the Number Of Licensed Liquor Establishments On Urban And Housing Conditions of San Antonio", April, 1976.

16. Porforio Alvarez, "The Mexican American and Alcoholism", Center on Alcohol Abuse Prevention Class---Background on Alcoholism; p.63.

17. Juliette S. Ruiz, "Chicano Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: A Socio-Cultural Dimensions", Worden Graduate School of Social Work: Nov., 1976, p. 76.

18. U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare: First Special Report to the United States Congress on Alcohol and Health, December, 1974, p.66.

19. Domingo Bueno, "Alcoholism Prevention Thru Community Education", (proposal submitted at Council for Community Development, Inc.) December, 1976, p.1.

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2. Alvarez, Porforia, "The Mexican American And Alcoholism", Center on Alcohol Abuse Prevention Class: Background on Alcoholism. (no date available)

3. Bueno, Domingo, "Alcoholism Prevention Thru Community Education", Proposal submitted at Council for Community Development, Inc., San Antonio, Texas, December, 1976.

4. Canales, Joe Edward, "A Description Study Of The Number Of Licensed Liquor Establishments On Urban And Housing Conditions Of San Antonio"; (A masters Research Project at Worden School; April, 1976).

5. Ewen-de Leon, Gloria, "Poverty Compounds The Problem", The Magazine: Texas Commission on Alcoholism, Vol.3, no. 2, Spring 1977.

6. Graves, D. Theodore, "Acculturation, Access, and Alcohol In A Thiethnic Community", American Anthropologist. Vol. LXIX, Nos. 3 and 4, 1976

7. Madsen, William, "The Alcoholic Agringado", Amercan Anthropologist, Vol. LXVI, no. 2, 1964.

8. Madsen, William, "What Is Alcoholism", The Magazine: Texas Commission on Alcoholism, Vol. 3, no.1, Winter, 1977.

9. Ruiz, S. Juliette, "Chicano Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: A Socio-Cultural Dimensions", (lecture at Worden School of Social Work, November, 1976).

10. Schneider, A. Karl, "Alcoholism: A Family Affair", Lutheran Brotherhood: Minneapolis, MN; 1974.

11. Takamine, Jokichi, "What Is Alcoholism", The Magazine: Texas Commission On Alcoholism, Vol 3, no.1, Winter, 1977.

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ALCOHOLISM SURVEY

DATE: _____ SURVEY NO. _____

INTERVIEWER'S SIGNITURE: _____ CENSUS TRACT_____

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: _____ SEX:___MALE___FEMALE___

PLEASE CIRCLE THE RESPONDENT'S ANSWER.

1. Have you heard about an alcoholism program called Casa Del Sol sponsored by the Mexican American Unity Council?

   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Maybe/Not sure

2. Why do people drink?

   A. Peer pressure
   B. Problems (socio-economic)
   C. Gusto/entertainment
   D. Ritual ceremonies(fiestas, matrimonios, bautismos, etc.)
   E. Other

3. What can you do to help a family member who is having problems drinking?

   A. Help the person (referral)
   B. Avoid or hide the problem
   C. I don't know

4. Have you even been to the San Antonio City Jail to bail out a close friend or family member because of an alcoholic related case?

   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Other

5. Do you think there are to many cantinas and barras in this neighborhood?

   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. I don't know

6. When a family member drinks, where does that person drink?

   A. Cantinas y barras
   B. En casa
   C. Social events
   D. Other

Does anybody in your family drink at the corner icehouse, (lleleria)?

A. Yes
B. No
C. I don't know

8. Do you worry about a family member who drinks alot?

A. Yes
B. No
C. Sometimes
D. Other

9. Approximately how much money is spend on drinking weekly in your family?

A. $5-$10
B. $10-$25
C. $25 or more

10. Has there even been a serious experience or tragedy in your family because of alcohol abuse?

A. Yes
B. No
C. I don't know

11. Do you think children are affected and influenced when they see their parents drink?

A. Yes
B. No
C. I don't know
D. It depends on the parents

12. What opinion do you think you religion has about drinking?

A. Against
B. Accepts
C. I don't know

13. Does alcoholism lead to marital problems? (divorce, seperations, etc.)

A. Yes
B. No
C. I don't know

14. On what occassions do you and your family members gather to drink?

A. Parties/pinatas
B. Weddings
C. Religous rituals
D. Other

15. In your opinion how do you define alcoholism?

A. Disease/illness
B. Vice/habit
C. Social problem
D. Other

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____